



Smarter Balanced and Policymakers: Creating College- and Career-Ready Assessments

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is creating next-generation tests aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English language arts/literacy and mathematics that will be available by the 2014-15 school year. The assessment system includes a rigorous computer adaptive summative test for grades 3-8 and 11 that provides accurate student performance and growth information to meet state and federal accountability requirements. In addition, optional computer adaptive interim assessments and formative resources aligned to the CCSS give teachers and principals the tools to help students meet today's college- and career-ready standards.

Key Features of Smarter Balanced

- ➤ A college- and career-ready evaluation based on the CCSS with results that are comparable nationwide and internationally benchmarked.
- ▶ Innovative item types go beyond multiple choice questions to include constructed response and performance tasks that measure critical thinking and problem solving.
- ➤ Support for Common Core implementation, including membership for Governing States in the Council of Chief State School Officers' Implementing CCSS state collaborative and a digital library of curriculum resources and instructional best practices for educators.

State-led Governance

Smarter Balanced is a state-led consortium, with governing authority flowing from state education chiefs and elected officials. Each state appoints K-12 and higher education leads to coordinate with the Consortium. State representatives direct the Executive Committee and participate in 10 Smarter Balanced work groups. Policy decisions are made by Governing States while Advisory States benefit by sharing resources and access to national experts and technical advisors.

Support for Implementation

Smarter Balanced is committed to addressing the concerns of states and ensuring a successful transition to new assessments. A technology readiness tool will allow states to estimate future information technology needs. A paper-and-

pencil version of the assessments will be available during a three-year transition period. In addition, the Consortium will also provide professional development and training for teams of educators from each state.

State Implementation Timeline

- ► 2011-2012 School Year—Technology readiness tool available
- Winter/Spring 2013—Pilot testing of summative and interim assessments
- ► Spring 2014—Field testing of summative and interim assessments
- ➤ 2014-15 School Year—Implementation of assessment system and launch of digital library

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Visit SmarterBalanced.org to learn more about the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and sign-up to receive our monthly eNewsletter. For more information, please contact Info@SmarterBalanced.org.